

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTH-EAST ASIA: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

01 July 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.30/2002; Appeal Target CHF 4,909,189 (USD 3.2m/EUR 3.3m); Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 1 January to 20 June 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 33.6%

Outstanding needs: CHF 3,261,033 (USD 2.17m/EUR 2.21m)

Update: February 2002's meeting of the Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC) in Brunei Darussalam reinforced the network of support among South-East Asia's Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies in the areas of disaster preparedness and disaster management. The regional health programmes made considerable progress regarding work to support HIV/AIDS initiatives and first aid. Apart from severe floods in Indonesia in March, no major disasters occurred within the region during the first half of the year. Funding for the South-East Asian Regional Delegation remains critical as many of the delegation's planned activities have been hindered by the lack of available financial resources.

Operational Developments

The first six months of 2002 in South-East Asia has seen few changes to the political or economic landscape. There were no major natural disasters in the region during the reporting period. National Societies in South-East Asia intend to increase HIV/AIDS awareness activities. Interest and concern regarding HIV/AIDS prevention has expanded beyond regional health departments and ministries to senior officials.

In March, the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) hosted the sub-regional partnership meeting with support from the Federation and the ICRC. The meeting facilitated the strengthening of partnerships and cemented links between Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies in South-East Asia.

Disaster Preparedness

Six out of South-East Asia's 10 established National Societies (one in East Timor is currently in formation) have requested Federation assistance for their disaster preparedness (DP) programmes. As of March 2002, Federation DP delegates are working with National Societies in Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia. In addition, one regional DP delegate and one temporary Staff on Loan (SoL) are based at the Federation's South-East Asia regional delegation. During early 2002, insufficient funding restricted the Federation's ability to fully develop the staff capacity of the Regional Disaster Management Unit.

Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC)

A regional disaster management (DM) programme was established in 2001. A key part of this programme was the development of a comprehensive, integrated and institutionalised regional cooperation mechanism for Federation disaster management in South-East Asia. The South-East Asia Regional DM Committee (RDMC) was formed to create a forum for managers from the region’s Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and DP/DM delegates in South-East Asia to share information and coordinate activities by adopting a programme framework consisting of four main objectives and a broad range of activity areas.

The first RDMC meeting was held in Malaysia in August 2001, followed by a second RDMC meeting in Vietnam in November 2001. The third RDMC meeting took place, during the reporting period in Brunei Darussalam in February 2002.

The document outlining the Regional Cooperation Framework was adopted at the second meeting in Vietnam. The Cooperation Framework has been formally endorsed by eight of the region’s societies. The third meeting held in February was the first step towards making the cooperation framework operational. National Societies took their first steps towards organising themselves, and assuming responsibility for DM technical issues identified during the previous two meetings in 2001.

The third RDMC meeting took place with the participation of ten of South-East Asia’s National Societies. One of the key outcomes of February’s meeting was the formation of four subgroups, representing each of the RDMC’s main objectives spelled out in the Regional Cooperation Framework. The four groups were tasked with initiating work on various disaster management technical issues. Each group is led by a ‘convener’, appointed from the members of the RDMC. The Sub Group’s work is supposed to be facilitated and supported by one staff member of the Regional Disaster Management Unit (although 3 of these 4 positions were vacant for the first part of 2002), plus existing country-based DP delegates.

Objectives 1-4 of the Regional DM Committee (RDMC)	‘Convener’	Facilitated and supported by:
Objective 1: Support to individual National Societies in the region, in meeting their development needs in disaster and conflict management (DM/CM) being facilitated and increased.	Sub Group 1: Cambodia Red Cross	1. Regional DP Coordinator
Objective 2: The Federation’s regional disaster response and response preparedness capacity being strengthened (for the benefit of individual NSs), and the understanding of and linkages to the Federation’s global response system being assured.	Sub Group 2: Malaysian Red Crescent	2. Regional Response Preparedness Coordinator
Objective 3: The disaster management information systems, and the networking and knowledge sharing mechanisms within the region, being improved.	Sub Group 3: Thai Red Cross	3. Regional DMI & KS Officer
Objective 4: The Federation’s Regional DM cooperation framework in South-East Asia being maintained, sustained and further developed.	Sub Group 4: Philippine National Red Cross	4. Head, Regional DM Unit

The fourth convening of the RDMC took place at the end of June. Details regarding the outcome of this meeting will be published in Programme Update no. 2.

South-East Asia Disaster Management Programme

The new regional DM programme, as spelled out in the Regional Cooperation Framework, comprises five inter-linked components:

1. National Society Disaster Preparedness (DP) Support

2. **Disaster Response and Response Preparedness**
3. **Disaster Management Information & Knowledge Sharing**
4. **Regional Institution and Capacity Building**
5. **Programme Management, Coordination and Cooperation**

Component 1: National Society Disaster Preparedness (DP) Support

Objective for component 1: The new regional coordinated and team-oriented approach to individual National Society support is understood, accepted, introduced and starting to function.

Activities & Achievements

The purpose of this programme component, in keeping with the new ‘regionalised’ and collaborative approach, is to provide DP support to individual National Societies by facilitating and ensuring the effective mobilisation, utilisation and coordination of all capacities available within or outside the region. A regional DP coordinator will join the delegation in July to facilitate this process.

DM managers from the National Societies and Federation delegates have developed a cooperative attitude and strong sense of shared responsibility since forming the RDMC. Additionally, regular communications among RDMC members initiated during the three meetings have improved as a result of these initiatives.

A mapping exercise carried out in February 2002, during the RDMC meeting in Brunei Darussalam (available as Annex 2 of the meeting’s report) indicated a significant increase among the region’s National Societies of providing each other with support. A comprehensive ‘Checklist for Characteristics of a Well-Prepared National Society’ was developed and accepted during February’s RDMC meeting. The checklist provides detailed identification of the needs and the capacities within each of the societies. The list will be implemented by all of the National Societies in South-East Asia during the coming months. The checklist will function as an important tool for National Society development planning, as well as being instrumental in the interactive ‘matching’ of strengths and capacities with weaknesses and needs among all of the National Societies.

Finally, in order to strengthen and build upon regional cooperation to support individual National Societies, ‘Subgroup One,’ led by the Cambodian Red Cross, was formed at the Brunei-meeting. Activity areas and tasks for this group are defined within objective one of the Regional Cooperation Framework Document.

Constraints

Coordination activities largely depend on the supportive role of the Regional DP Coordinator. As the position was vacant during the first half of 2002, the Regional DM Unit did not have the capacity to provide as much support as it had hoped to over the reporting period.

Component 2: Disaster Response and Response Preparedness

Objectives for component 2:

1. A mechanism for efficient and effective deployment of a “regional disaster response team” in South-East Asia is developing gradually, and the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) capacity of the Federation within the region being maintained;
2. The possibilities for strengthening the regional ERU capacities being explored and then developed accordingly;
3. Logistics development needs, including structures and resources available in the region, are being identified through a six month logistics assessment (to be followed by development work addressing these needs and challenges); and,
4. Adequate support is being provided to NS/delegations in South-East Asia in response preparedness and in times of disasters.

Activities & Achievements

The Disaster Response and Response Preparedness component seeks to link the national and regional levels with the Federation’s global response system, and to ensure alignment with the policies, standards and procedures of the Federation.

To strengthen and build regional cooperation, "Subgroup Two" of the RDMC, led by the Malaysian Red Crescent, was formed (activity areas/tasks are defined under Objective Two of the Regional Cooperation Framework Document). At February's RDMC meeting in Brunei Darussalam, it was recognized that a regional disaster response mechanism would be beneficial in the South-East Asian region. The newly formed Subgroup Two was tasked with carrying out mapping exercises (risk analysis, etc.), studying experiences from other regions, and by outlining a concept paper before the June meeting of the RDMC. Moreover, the RDMC expressed its support to collaborate (mainly by providing human resources) with other National Societies in Asia-Pacific - such as the Japanese and Australian Red Cross Societies - to establish Emergency Response Units ERU).

During the first quarter of 2002, preparations took place for the first Sphere training workshop in South-East Asia which took place in May. This is the first step in the longer strategy of having the Sphere concept properly understood and applied within the entire region.

The Brunei meeting also addressed: the development of NS disaster contingency plans; the need for clarification and development of procedures for FACT deployment (there are ten people newly trained in FACT); the relevance of the logistics assessment planned for later in 2002; and, the need for developing a good understanding of the various Federation DM policies, systems and procedures.

Apart from severe floods in Indonesia during March, no major disasters occurred within the region during the first quarter of the year.

Constraints

The Federation's "Regional Response Preparedness Coordinator" position was vacant during the reporting period. This position has been filled and the coordinator is expected to arrive shortly.

Component 3: Disaster Management Information and Knowledge Sharing

Objectives for component 3:

1. The Federation's new global, web-based Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) is established and being used by the delegations and by some of the NSs in South-East Asia.
2. Knowledge sharing networks are introduced and becoming increasingly functional, both throughout South-East Asia and in relation to the Secretariat and other regions.
3. That the efficiency of the Federation in the region during disasters is substantially improved through the provision of better coordination and service.

Activities & Achievements

Activities in relation to Component 3 are intended to improve the disaster management information systems (DMIS) at national, regional and global level. It seeks to develop various mechanisms for systematic knowledge sharing within the region as well as between regions. Additionally, it addresses how to improve Federation services to PNS, donors and other stakeholders during disasters. To a large extent, this programme supports the work carried out within the context of objectives one and two of the Regional Cooperation Framework.

Subgroup Three, led by the Thai Red Cross, of the RDMC was formed to strengthen and build on regional cooperation. The Sub Group's activity areas/tasks are defined under Objective Three of the Regional Cooperation Framework document. Initially, the main activities are: developing a global, web-based DMIS; to develop and coordinate the work during the first 12-18 months; and, a regionally recruit a DMIS/Knowledge Sharing(KS) Officer.

Constraints

This programme area is carried out within the context of objective three of the Regional Cooperation Framework. A Regional DMIS / KS Officer is required to implement this programme. However, as that position remained vacant, the Regional DM Unit was unable to provide sufficient support.

Component 4: Regional Institution and Capacity Building

Objective for component 4: A Regional DM Cooperation Body being introduced, recognised and increasingly functional, serving as a prime focal point for the Federations regional DM development and cooperation matters.

Activities & Achievements

In line with Strategy 2010 “working effectively together as a Federation”, the Tokyo and Hanoi declarations (1996 and 1998 respectively), as well as in the “spirit” of the ongoing Programme Coordination (PC) change process, programme component 4 focuses on the development of a comprehensive, integrated and institutionalised cooperation framework for the Federation’s DM activities in South-East Asia. Its primary purpose is to improve the region’s own ability to strengthen its DM capacity at both national and regional levels, while at the same time strengthening the Federation’s global DM capacity.

The new regional approach represents a radical shift in the way the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement has been operating:

- By connecting all DM managers and all DP/DM delegates of the region.
- By including all national societies with or without a Federation delegation.
- By acting as a catalyst to mobilise the capacities of all NSs, as well as Federation delegations, in order to ‘match’ the development needs at both individual NS and at regional level.
- By being comprehensive in the sense of addressing and responding to all needs.
- By working through an organisational structure formally endorsed by the NSs.
- By ensuring NS ownership of the RDMC and the regional cooperation mechanism, whereby the Federation delegates play an advisory and leadership role.
- By ensuring the regional programme is needs based.
- By improving sustainability and continuity (the model will endure beyond staff changes).

A key factor for the continued progress of the RDMC and the regional cooperation framework is the spirit of confidence, openness, trust and commitment that has emerged among all participants.

Constraints

The regional approach is far from being a pure ‘DM technical’ issue. It can challenge mindsets, as well as the conventional organisational culture of the Federation’s Secretariat in the area of disaster management. The approach taken is comprehensive, integrated, inclusive, institutionalised and NS-driven. It is an approach that is not always easily understood and valued. It is, therefore, recognised that more effort is required to share information and to advocate for the model - specifically within the Federation structure.

While the National Societies and their DM managers are committed to the new co-operative approach, the Regional DM Unit still lacks the financial and human resources to fulfil its role. If this constraint is not overcome, there is a risk of disappointment among the National Societies.

Component 5: Programme Management, Cooperation and Coordination

Objective for component 5: A management function for the Regional Disaster Management Programme is established and becoming functional, for the purpose of overall programme management, development, co-ordination, cooperation and follow-up.

Activities & Achievements

While components one to four of the Regional DM Programme are strongly linked to the technical areas outlined in objectives one to four of the regional DM cooperation framework, component five of the programme covers external areas. This includes programme management, financial management, programme administrative matters, report writing, internal meetings, external relations, briefing of visitors, meetings with the Regional DM team (all SEA DP delegates), connectivity to the global DP-network, reading of various materials and promotion of sectoral/unit cooperation. While much of this is supposed to be the responsibility of the Head of the DM Unit, a programme administrator has been required to ensure more effective programme management. The Hong Kong Red Cross has been able to provide a highly effective staff on loan (SoL) to support the work at the Regional DM Unit from January-June.

Constraints

Despite the assignment of a SoL, the administrative tasks have occupied as much as 60% of the time of the Head of the Regional DM Unit (i.e. the Regional DP Delegate). It is crucial, therefore, that additional funds be obtained to recruit a locally hired programme administrator.

Humanitarian Values

Funding for the Federation's Regional Information Unit (RIU) remains a concern. The current funding level is 60%. Without further funding for communications activities, the work is bound to suffer – and with it the profile of the Federation and National Societies in the region.

Objective 1: Strong and well-developed communications capacity of National Societies in the region.**Activities & Achievements**

Regional Communications Network Meeting: The Second Regional Communications Network meeting was held in Macau during March with the participation of 28 communicators and senior managers from 16 National Societies and branches in East and South-East Asia. Only the societies of Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam were not represented. Facilitators came from the regional delegations of the Federation and the ICRC in Bangkok, as well as a number of National Societies in the region.

The main objectives of the meeting were: to continue the development of the Regional Communications Strategy for East and South-East Asia 2001-2005 (initiated in Bangkok in February 2001); to strengthen the Regional Communications Network; to share experience and best practice among NS communicators; and, to increase cooperation between NSs in the region in the field of communications.

The Regional Communications Strategy for East and South-East Asia 2001-2005: Work continued during the Macau meeting on the Regional Communications strategy that was developed by participants in the regional workshop in Bangkok in 2001. Objectives on advocacy, disaster communications and fund-raising were added to the existing strategy during the meeting in Macau. This was done to better reflect the changing demands and priorities of the Movement. The regional strategy has been found to be a very useful tool for the NSs in the region. Approximately half of the NSs have used the strategy as a blueprint for their own national strategies and plans.

Regional Communications Network: The Regional Communications Network was strengthened during the Macau Meeting. Members of the Network are NS staff whose primary role is communications i.e. media relations, public relations, publications/information and dissemination. The Network was defined at the meeting as a forum for sharing information and skills among NS communicators in the region, which should:

- push communication higher on NS/Federation priorities list;
- address regional and global communications and advocacy issues;
- provide direction in communications work;
- help develop NS plans and strategies; and,
- support implementation of regional/global communications and advocacy activities.

A new working group was elected at the end of the meeting. New members elected to the working group are representatives of the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Macau branch of the Red Cross Society of China, the Singapore Red Cross and the Philippines National Red Cross. The head of the Federation's Regional Information Unit (RIU) will work with the group, and a representative from the ICRC.

The role of the working group is to:

- lead and monitor implementation of strategy;
- keep the strategy under review;
- coordinate with the Federation on regional communication activities;
- organise joint activities and projects; and,
- advocate for support for strategy in NS.

The working group continued work on finalising the revised strategy document.

The Regional Events calendar was updated and circulated in January, detailing Red Cross/Red Crescent events, meetings, seminars, conferences etc. for the latter half of 2002. This initiative, which originated with the Regional Communications Network, has been well received and will be continued.

Regional Internship Programme: The Regional Internship Programme. Communications officers from the NSs of Mongolia, the Philippines and Cambodia will spend a week with the RIU in May.

In January, an agreement was reached with the ICRC's regional delegation in Bangkok for a larger ICRC role in the programme. The ICRC will also cover a third of the cost of the internship programme. This arrangement is particularly beneficial as the communications officers of the NSs in the region are also heavily involved in ICRC led dissemination activities.

Support to National Societies: Technical support was extended to the Lao Red Cross (LRC) during the reporting period. The head of the RIU visited the LRC to discuss ways and means of strengthening the communications capacity and structure of LRC (separate report circulated in January). Further discussions are planned and a communications planning and training workshop is tentatively scheduled for late August.

The RIU committed to support an internet connection for the LRC communications department. The LRC is one of three NS communications departments in the region without internet connection. The others are the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar.

Further meetings were held with leaders of the Vietnam Red Cross to discuss communications capacity and strategies. A meeting was scheduled for early April where it was hoped that dates would be set for a planning meeting/workshop later in the year.

Meetings to discuss the development of communications plans and strategies were held with communications staff of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI). A further working meeting is scheduled for late April between the PMI, RIU and ICRC.

In-country workshop in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK): A three-day workshop was held in February for ten DPRK Red Cross communications staff. This was a follow up to a communications training workshop held in Pyongyang in November 2000. The main objective of the February workshop was to finalise a draft communications strategy that was developed by participants in the 2000 workshop, as well as to familiarise participants with the latest Federation and Movement strategies and communications and advocacy plans. The objectives were met as reported on in a separate report circulated to stakeholders. Following the Pyongyang workshop, two DPRK Red Cross Society representatives took part in the Macau Communications Network Meeting.

Communications Guide: The International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement's Communications Guide, which is currently only available on the internet in English, was printed, bound and distributed to all participants in the Macau meeting. Discussions were held with officials of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) in Beijing, on the possibility of translating the guide into Mandarin. The RCSC, by far the largest NS in the region, estimates that it would need over 3,000 copies of the guide. A Chinese version of the communications guide would also benefit NSs in Singapore and Malaysia, and RCSC branches in Macau and Hong Kong. The total cost of the translation, printing, binding and distribution of the guide into Mandarin is USD 20,000 (CHF 29,600). The RIU has secured about half of those funds (with the help of the Federation's Regional Office in Beijing). The rest of the funding is being sought in cooperation with the Communications Department in Geneva. As the members of the Regional Communications Network speak a total of 14 different languages, should this turn out successfully, the possibility of translating the guide into more Asian languages will be looked into.

Objective 2: Expanded strategic links with local and international media to secure sustained and high profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation and National Societies in the region, particularly in times of emergencies.

Activities & Achievements

A communications strategy (6-12 months) to support the long-term humanitarian emergency in Mongolia was developed in cooperation with the Mongolia delegation, the Media Service in the Federation's Secretariat, the East Asia desk, Regional Office in Beijing and others. A reporting visit to Mongolia took place in early May to profile the continued 'dzud' disaster in the country and the growing vulnerability of Mongolian herders and the urban poor.

Informal meetings are regularly held with representatives of international and regional media in Bangkok, and contact maintained with main media in Beijing. A contact list is maintained and regularly updated. No press releases were issued during the reporting period.

Objective 3: Heightened awareness of Red Cross/Red Crescent activities and humanitarian values in Asia-Pacific by key external stakeholders, including diplomatic missions, the corporate sector, civil authorities, NGOs, INGOs and civil society.

Activities & Achievements

Considerable time was devoted to preparing the 8 May launch of the International Federation's Global Campaign against HIV/AIDS and the related stigma and discrimination. The campaign was introduced at the Macau meeting and during the Jakarta Partnership Meeting in March. Material from the Federation's secretariat has been slow in coming.

A Press Release was drawn up for the launch of the World Disasters Report in June in cooperation with the Regional Disaster Management Unit.

Two stories per week (on average) were submitted to the Federation's website, featuring various programmes and operations around the region.

Discussions continued with the Federation's Communications and Advocacy Department in Geneva on the feasibility of "regional windows" on the Federation's main website.

A commitment was made to the RCSC to provide the (weekly) Red Cross News publication with a monthly column on the activities of the International Federation around the world.

Planning regarding communications activities around the sixth Regional Asia-Pacific Conference in November took place in Manila during the first week of April. The RIU has been tasked with leading this work in cooperation with the Philippines National Red Cross and the Geneva Communications Department.

Asia-Pacific FOCUS: 2002's first issue of the Asia-Pacific FOCUS was published in March. A record number of articles and stories in this issue were written by NS communicators. The main theme of this issue was the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the Federation's support to the Afghan Red Crescent. A number of other issues and topics were covered. A full page was devoted to the NSs in the Pacific, and another two pages to the HIV/AIDS issue and Red Cross/Red Crescent activities around the region. An HIV page will be a regular feature in the journal for the remainder of this year to support the Federation's global campaign against HIV-related stigma and discrimination and to profile increased HIV-related activities by a number of NSs in the region.

A regional information officer undertook a reporting visit to Indonesia to cover the plight of displaced persons in Surabaya, and the increased cooperation between the Federation and the ICRC in the country. In addition, an information officer traveled with the Thai Red Cross (TRC) and a team of international ear, nose and throat specialists through rural Thailand to report on a TRC programme providing specialized medical services to remote towns and villages. Both these visits will be featured in the June issue of the magazine.

'Changing Attitudes' video programme: In late March, the RIU produced the final draft of a concept paper for a 10-15 minute video programme on HIV-related work in Asia-Pacific. The video (working title "Changing Attitudes") is to be finalized in time for the sixth Regional Asia-Pacific Conference in Manila in November 2002. The purpose of the video programme is:

1. to document the role and activities of Red Cross/Red Crescent in the HIV/AIDS across the region; specifically to document the main challenges facing the people on the front lines – NS staff and volunteers as well as HIV+ people;
2. to motivate the NS leadership at the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Manila;
3. to raise awareness about the issues faced by People Living With HIV/Aids (PLWHA) within Red Cross/Red Crescent communities in the region; and,
4. To advocate on behalf of PLWHA in their own National Societies and the broader community.

The video is being produced in cooperation with the Regional Information Delegate in South Asia and the Regional Health Unit in Bangkok. A number of stakeholders have been consulted during the development of the concept paper, including the Asian Regional Task Force on HIV/AIDS (ART) network and the Australian Red Cross Subregional Aids Network.

The video will be used by National Societies in the Asia-Pacific region, after the Manila Conference. The video will include a tool kit to help NSs make the best use of the video for its internal and external audiences. NSs will be provided with a broadcast quality version of the video for translation into local languages and for possible broadcast on national TV. This project will replace the planned production of a Public Service Announcement (PSA), as it is deemed to be of higher relevance in the context of the Federation's global anti-stigma and discrimination campaign.

Objective 4: Integration of communications components into all regional/national programmes.

Activities & Achievements

Continued cooperation with other regional units and country delegations. The head of the Regional Health Unit facilitated part of an advocacy session during the Macau Communications Network Meeting and provided highly valued advice and guidance.

Objective 5: Effective coordination of communications activities and projects in Asia-Pacific as leader of the Asia-Pacific Regional Information Unit.

Activities & Achievements

Cooperation with the regional information team in Delhi continues to be productive. Input has been provided for defining the role for a proposed regional information delegate in the East Asia regional office in Beijing. The position has been opened but is still not funded; hence it remains unclear when the Beijing Office will have the necessary communications capacity.

In late February, the head of RIU and the Federation's Regional Information Delegate in Delhi went to Geneva for consultation with the Asia-Pacific Department and the Communications and Advocacy Department on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Communications Strategy (adopted in June 2001, now the basis of the Federation's communications programmes and activities across the Asia-Pacific region), and the Geneva-field relationship. At the end of useful and constructive two days of discussions, the strategy was endorsed and will continue to be implemented.

Constraints

As mentioned earlier, lack of funding is a serious constraint towards implementing many of the planned activities.

Health and Care

Human Capacity Building (HCB)

Objective 1: Key NS health managers/key staff equipped with adequate managerial and technical skills to design, implement and evaluate health programmes.

Activities & Achievements

- *Launch the 'Best Practice' guidelines stories of NSs in the field of health.*

Discussions took place with the Philippines Red Cross concerning their experiences with the selection of “Best Practice” cases. It was suggested that guidelines on “Best Practice” must be adaptable to local conditions.

- *Facilitate and support that key NS health staff gain access to short courses and conferences on health management and related fields.*

There was no request from NSs regarding this planned activity.

Objective 2: A system for the effective utilization of experts and resource persons of NSs within and outside the RC/RC Movement.

Activities & Achievements

- *To further identify health experts and focal persons through questionnaires, workshops, meetings, etc.*
The list of health experts was updated based on the regional health trends workshop held in Manila. There are currently 237 health experts.

- *To launch the health skills mapping exercise for the effective utilization of NS health experts and focal persons by other NSs or partner health agencies.*

A leaflet of frequently asked questions (FAQs) has been developed. In addition, work has started on the design of a database.

Objective 3: A regional network for information and experience sharing, and advocacy among National Societies (NS), country delegations (CD) and the regional delegation, as well as international and regional counterparts in health.

Activities & Achievements

- *To gather articles for the production the seventh issue the Regional Health Newsletter(RHN), jointly with other health programmes and NS focal persons.*

The seventh issue of the RHN was published.

- *To follow up with the RHN focal persons, health managers and country delegations about the feedback forms sent with the 6th issue of the RHN.*

Sixty eight feedback forms were received from different NSs in the region.

- *To analyze the feedback forms received from individuals.*

The analysis will form part of the regional health programme evaluation report (currently being completed).

- *To strengthen links with international organizations, government and non-government bodies, universities and learning institutions.*

The fourth edition of “Training Opportunities 2002” was produced. It featured 150 short courses related to health from 64 institutions and universities. 500 copies were produced and distributed to NS and other organisations in the region.

Objective 4: Technical and resource support systems for NSs, CDs and regional initiatives in the field of health.

Activities & Achievements

- *To compile, reproduce and distribute to NSs, CDs and other units of the Federation’s Regional Delegation-Bangkok technical documents developed/produced by NSs, the Regional Health Unit(RHU), as well as those by other health agencies.*

No activity was carried out during the beginning of 2002.

- *To attend relevant regional and/or international conferences, meetings or workshops in health in order to obtain updated information, data or new developments that affect the health programs of NSs.*

The programme officer attended the Regional Health Trends Workshops in Manila.

- *To develop and expand a resource library covering different relevant health areas, jointly with other health programs.*

No activity was carried out during the beginning of 2002.

First Aid (FA)

Objective 5: Key NS FA programme managers and staff equipped with adequate managerial and technical skills to design, implement and evaluate FA programmes.

Activities & Achievements

- *To identify and disseminate to all NSs relevant short training courses offered in the region and other parts of the world.*

Support was provided in the search and identification of relevant short courses for the 2002 edition of the Training Opportunities brochure (see above).

- *To identify and provide practical training and on-the-job training opportunities to two NS FA programme staff.*

The Head of the Regional Health Unit conducted a workshop on programme review and evaluation with the health and social welfare sub-department of the Cambodian Red Cross in connection with the ongoing review of the society's primary health care programme.

The programme officer and the water and sanitation officer visited Lao Red Cross in January for initial discussions with the NS and PNS representatives concerning the planned first aid review. In addition, technical support has been provided to the Federation's delegation in Myanmar to assist in updating the society's FA policy and training programmes.

Objective 6: A system for the effective utilisation of first aid experts and resource persons within and outside the RC/RC Movement.

Activities & Achievements

- *To further identify NS FA experts and focal persons who can be tapped as resource persons or consultants for other NSs.*

The forms and guidelines of the regional skills mapping was finalized during the quarter and are now ready for publication. Discussions with potential companies to prepare the database were also undertaken.

Objective 7: A regional network for information and experience sharing, and promotion of FA.

Activities & Achievements

- *To maintain FA section in Regional Health Newsletter, and provide technical support to focal persons responsible for the FA section in the RHN.*

Issue seven of the Regional Health Newsletter (March 2002) ran a one-page section on FA which featured the recently-released HIV/AIDS and FA guidelines, as well as the upcoming regional FA competition.

- *To organise follow up regional FA competition.*

A meeting between Philippines Red Cross, the RCSC Hong Kong branch and the RHU took place in February. This helped clarify roles, expectations and different areas to be prepared for the competition. Site visits were done and specific areas within the venue were identified for different scenarios. PNRC has already formed committees and identified specific roles for in-country preparations. HKRC has also committed to provide support in developing and conducting different scenarios within the competition, as well as funds to cover various components of the budget. A total of ten NSs have confirmed their involvement in the competition.

- *To strengthen and expand working relations with other organizations.*

The identification of road injuries and road safety as the focus of the First Aid session during the Regional Health Trends Workshop (please see below), enabled the contacts to be made with the Asian Development Bank (Manila), World Bank (Manila), WHO WPRO, Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) – Geneva, and ASEAN GRSP Committee (Japan).

- *To compile, monitor, evaluate, disseminate updates and developments on FA.*

The 'FA Networks' newsletter and HIV/AIDS guidelines were shared within the region. New materials on road safety obtained from the GRSP Secretariat, WHO WPRO, ESCAP and European Red Cross Road Safety Campaign, were distributed to NSs and country delegations.

Objective 8: A set of minimum standards for quality assurance in the field of FA in the region.

Activities & Achievements

- *To provide leadership into the Regional Working Committee during the interim period of one year.*

The Unit conducted a number of follow ups with NSs on the ongoing consultation on the draft minimum standards. Non-committee member National Societies of Cambodia, Indonesia and Myanmar have forwarded their comments and suggestions on the draft standards. A follow up committee in April will focus on the comments and suggestions, as well as on the upgrading/conversion system.

Health in Emergencies (HIE)

Objective 9: Improved capacity of NS health departments and assigned emergency health staff to assist communities in addressing health problems/issues during disasters or disease outbreaks.

Activities & Achievements

- *To continuously update a registry of NS HIE staff indicating existing capacity and skills, as well as requirements for training and development.*

A section has been incorporated into the NS health experts database to capture people with experience and expertise in health emergencies. Currently these are individuals who have been identified by their NSs during a survey conducted last year, as well as those who attended the recent training workshop. The regional skills map and database, which is being finalised, has been designed to incorporate a section on health emergencies experts.

- *To update an inventory of short training courses on HIE offered by learning institutions and universities in the region.*

The fourth edition of the Training Opportunities brochure includes a section on 'Emergency/Disaster Management'. This covers short courses on emergency health management, preparedness and response to disasters or complex emergencies offered in the region and other parts of the world.

- *To support an informal advisory group composed of NS HIE staff which will provide support and guidance to the development of NS HIE programmes, as well as the regional programme.*

A working concept paper on the regional working group was circulated to all National Societies in early March for comments and feedback. The Red Cross Societies of China and Thailand have nominated members for the working group. A meeting is scheduled in May 2002. The training workshop report is also currently reviewed and will be made ready for the meeting.

- *To produce a regular Health in Emergencies section in the Regional Health Newsletter through a group of NS focal persons.*

Issue 7 of the Regional Health Newsletter (March 2002) featured a one-page section on 'Health Emergencies' covering developments of the programme, and a planned joint training on the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Relief (Sphere Project).

- *To produce an emergency health information package consisting of tools, software and reference materials for use by NS emergency health managers at NHQ and branches.*

The 4 CD-set Health Emergencies Field Library was finalized in February 2002. These were immediately circulated to all National Societies, country delegations in the region and regional delegations in Asia and Pacific. Copies were also distributed during the health retreat (Geneva).

- *To facilitate the establishment and nurturing of professional contacts between NSs and relevant institutions, agencies and peers within and outside the region.*

The Regional Health Trends Workshop (March 2002, Philippines) provided opportunities for National Societies represented to interact with experts from WHO, UNICEF, ADB, ICRC and other organizations, on emergency health and other relevant issues.

Objective 10: Improved capacity of the Federation (South-East and East Asia) to provide technical support, facilitate and to coordinate NS emergency health programmes and response operations.

Activities & Achievements

- *To conduct regular disaster monitoring and surveillance to detect public health trends and dangers.*

The steady rise malaria and diarrhoea cases in some provinces in Indonesia were discussed with *Palang Merah Indonesia* for verification, their views and possible interventions.

- *To maintain and regularly update a resource library on HIE for RHU support and use in the region.*

The training workshop report is currently under review and will be finalised shortly.

- *To establish/maintain relationships with other organizations in the field of HIE to improve Federation preparedness and response capacity in the region.*

Discussions took place with WHO on stronger cooperation in health in the Mekong sub-region, the global fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, as well as the Thai-Myanmar border health programme. Joint work on training and guidebook translation were also considered. During the DM cooperation meeting in Brunei, NS disaster managers were made aware of the developments within health emergencies at regional and NS levels; this was an attempt to ensure integration of initiatives in HE and DM.

HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health

Objective 11: Technical and resource support systems for the ART Secretariat in supporting ART members to implement the programs of the Task Force.

Activities & Achievements

- *To support the ART Secretariat in developing work-plans and budgets, and establishing administrative and organisational procedures in reporting and finance.*

The ART Secretariat has been coordinating with the South Asia HIV/AIDS coordination office for the preparation for the 14th ART meeting in Nepal (and ART/SART joint workshop).

Objective 12: A system for health data and health-related data collection and analysis in the field of HIV/AIDS/STDs as a basis for strategy development in specific country/risk group situations for National Society and Country Delegation.

Activities & Achievements

- *To develop and maintain professional contacts with relevant institutions, agencies and peers within and outside of the region and continuously review accessible health data.*

The Regional Health Unit had several meetings with the UNAIDS Asia Pacific inter-country team to discuss the possible cooperation between the Federation and UNAIDS APICT. One of the outcomes of these meeting was to issue a joint letter from the UN Asia Pacific UN theme group and Regional Delegation Bangkok to all chairmen of UN country theme groups to encourage their cooperation with Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies. Also, a possible cooperation with UNAIDS on creating a website for the ART was discussed.

A session was conducted on the children affected by HIV/AIDS and vulnerable children at the regional Health Trends Workshop. The UNICEF, EAPRO (Bangkok) representative made inputs to this session.

- *To maintain HIV section in Regional health newsletter .*

A contribution was made to the HIV section of the Regional health newsletter collecting articles from different National Societies.

Objective 13: Increase awareness for the prevention of discrimination and stigmatisation against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Activities & Achievements

- *To organize the South-East Asia Secretary Generals (SG) meeting on HIV/AIDS in March 2002*

The Head of Regional Health Unit did a presentation on regional HIV/AIDS strategies at the South-East Asia partnership meeting held in March 10-15, 2002.

- *Ongoing collaboration with the Positive Lives and APN+*

The Thai Red Cross Society (TRC) organized a photo exhibition 'Positive Lives' on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the TRC 'Save the Lives' children's project. The event was attended by the princess of Thailand, political leaders and media. The positive lives exhibition also was shown at different regional forums and workshops such as the Regional Communications Workshop, Regional Health Trends Workshop, and South-East Asia Secretary Generals Meeting and Partnership Meeting.

- *The Red Cross Red Crescent Global HIV/AIDS campaign*

Due to the delays in providing guidelines for National Societies on this campaign, not many National Societies in the region were able to launch this campaign on 8 May. A joint launch of the global HIV/AIDS campaign in cooperation with the TRC took place on 8 May in Bangkok.

Objective 14: ART members capable of implementing and supporting HIV/AIDS related programmes.

Activities & Achievements

- *To conduct the 15th ART meeting and ART capacity building workshop.*

The 15th ART meeting scheduled to be conducted in early April in Nepal was postponed to 22-28 May due to the political situation in Nepal. A three-days skills building workshop for ART and SART members was organized in conjunction with the ART and SART meetings. The workshop focused on HIV/AIDS discrimination and APN+. A preparatory meeting joint with the ART Secretariat and the South Asia HIV/AIDS Coordination Office was held in March.

- *To publish the ART newsletter, 11th edition.*

The regular edition of the ART newsletter was not produced in early 2002 due to the lack of contributions from ART members.

- *To assist ART members in advocating for support from government and other agencies.*

The Global Fund on HIV/AIDS (GFATM) has been closely followed by the regional unit. To date, five national societies (China, Cambodia, Vietnam, DPRK, East Timor) are members of the country coordination mechanisms and PMI has contributed to the development of a country joint proposal. The ART member representing the Red Cross Society of China, represented ART at the Second Asia Pacific regional consultation meeting on GFATM.

As a part of the skills building of ART member countries, representatives from Indonesia, Korea and Cambodia attended the Asian Human Rights and HIV/AIDS Training Workshop in Indonesia. Additionally the ART member from PMI participated as a team member in the final evaluation of regional health programmes.

National Societies were encouraged to submit abstracts for the international HIV/AIDS conference in Barcelona scheduled for July 2002. The successful presenters will be granted the full scholarship to attend the conference.

- *To invite non-member ART countries to join ART.*

The Singapore Red Cross Society and Red Cross Society of DPRK expressed their interest in joining the ART network. As a follow up to this, SRCS and DPRK will be invited to attend the 15th ART meeting and workshop in Nepal.

Blood

Objective 15: Key NS blood managers equipped with the necessary managerial and technical skills to provide blood programmes of adequate quality.

Activities & Achievements

- *To disseminate blood donor recruitment manuals and other Federation publications on blood to National Societies in the region.*

The manual was distributed to National Societies in April.

Objective 16: A communication network amongst NS blood managers for information and experience sharing in the field of policy, donor recruitment, counselling and other issues.

Activities & Achievements

- *To maintain a blood section in the regional health newsletter.*

The programme contributed to gathering inputs from National Societies for the section about blood activities.

- *To maintain contacts with professional organizations on blood.*

A meeting with the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO WPRO) was held in March to discuss possible cooperation with WHO in the blood sector. As a result of the discussion, the RHU will look into possibilities of having a joint with WHO skills building workshop on blood donor recruitment for national societies in 2003.

Objective 17: A system for the effective utilization of expertise and resource person in blood within the RC/RC movement

Activities & Achievements

- *To prepare for the second meetings of regional blood groups.*

The meetings originally scheduled in April were postponed until May in order to provide the opportunity to combine the meetings with other regional blood forums and also to allow WHO to participate. Meanwhile, the programme has been encouraging the National Societies to join the regional blood groups. To date, in addition to existing members, the Vietnam Red Cross has expressed interesting becoming a member of the blood donor recruitment group.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 18: Key NS wat/san personnel equipped with adequate managerial and technical skills to design and implement watsan programmes and a response to watsan needs in emergencies.

Activities & Achievements

- *Identify key focal National Society human resources in wat/san for skills training, in cooperation with the Human Capacity Building Programme (HCB), country delegations and health team.*

Work is continuing with the HCB in Health programme to develop the guidelines for skills mapping and the HR database for recording and eventual utilization of personnel.

- *Continue to identify institutions, universities and organisations offering courses in water and sanitation for inclusion in the RHU list of training courses.*

Water and Sanitation training courses were identified and featured in the 3rd edition of the Training Opportunities booklet. Contacts are maintained with the sources for updates and future courses that will benefit the NSs these will then be featured in the Regional Health Newsletter.

- *Organize a training course in water and sanitation for national societies in South-East and East Asia.*

A curriculum and selection criteria for the training was developed; through consultation with the regional wat/san working group, the identification of an external training partner was completed. However, due to insufficient appropriate qualified participants the training workshop has been postponed.

- *Establish and support technical exchange training, and assessment visits between National Societies, based on identified needs.*

Collaboration has continued with the Human Capacity Building in Health (HCB) on the skills mapping and HR database of NS resource persons.

Objective 19: To establish a regional network for information and experience sharing, and advocacy among all stakeholders in the field of water and sanitation.

Activities & Achievements

- *Establish and further develop working relationships with relevant wat/san parties, regionally and world-wide.*

Through the Health Information System / Surveillance (HISS) component, communication and meetings were held with organisations such as UNICEF, WHO and ICRC representatives, working in the region in wat/san for their contribution in the Regional Health Trends workshop. A meeting was held with the ICRC regional Water & Habitat (Wat&Hab) Engineer, to discuss possible collaboration and joint training for NSs, sharing of resources and development of materials such as IEC materials for hygiene awareness. There were also discussions on training needs with RedR.

- *Maintain communication links with National Societies, country delegations, Participating National Societies and donors.*

This is an ongoing activity. A more effective mechanism for doing this is being considered through the HISS component.

- *Maintain and encourage National Societies and country delegations to contribute to the wat/san section of the Regional Health Newsletter.*

Contributions were made to the 6th Regional Health Newsletter, with the members of the working group making a commitment of at least one article from each member for every edition.

- *Compile, monitor and evaluate regional water resources and sanitation management and related health information.*

This is ongoing.

- *Facilitate the regional watsan focal group meetings.*

The first meeting of the regional wat/san working group was held in Bangkok with participants from Lao, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Netherlands and Danish National Societies. DPRK, East Timor and Myanmar expressed an interest in participating in the group but were unable to send representatives.

- *Provide resources and opportunities for region-wide watsan initiatives for national societies, which identified watsan as a priority area.*

Region-wide activities were discussed at the working group meeting, including activity during World Water Day (22 March); the members are now compiling possible activities for consideration by the working group.

Objective 20: Improve the capacity of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in the region to provide adequate technical resources and support to National Societies' water and sanitation activities.

Activities & Achievements

- *Support and respond to National Society and country delegation requests for technical assistance.*

A technical mission was undertaken with the Head of Regional Health Unit to East Timor to assist the National Society in the assessment of possible areas of health programming for CVTL. The mission to East Timor also looked at the ongoing watsan programme of ICRC/Australian RC that will be handed over to the NS in May (full mission report available from Bangkok).

- *Support and respond to National Society and country delegation requests for resources in assessment planning and evaluation of programmes.*

Support and resources were provided to the Cambodian Red Cross and the Federation's country delegation as part of the 'Flood 2001' evaluation.

- *Identify, map and update available key wat/san experts from National Societies and other agencies in the region for their effective utilization in the National Societies' watsan programmes.*

Part of the ongoing skills mapping as part of the HCB component.

- *Maintain and regularly update a resource library of water and sanitation related materials.*

Ongoing activity, with addition and comments to the revised edition of the "wat/san mission assistant" CD, compiled by the Federation's Secretariat.

- *Establish through the Health Information System/Surveillance (HISS) programme an appropriate medium for disseminating available resources and technical information to national societies and country delegations.*

Details regarding these activities are reported in the HISS section below (objective 21).

- *Acquire updated information on relevant watsan developments by attending forums, conferences, and workshops and participating in discussion/working groups.*

Participation in the health retreat and wat/san meeting sponsored by the Federation in Geneva.

Health Information System/Surveillance (HISS)

Objective 21: Establish a user-friendly system for CD and NS to request and access required information on health trends and technical information for use in their programmes.

Activities & Achievements

- *To provide technical support by conducting and reviewing assessment and evaluation in the field of health.*
There was a combined mission to East Timor to assist the NS and the delegation to identify potential health areas.

- *To facilitate on the job experience in health assessment for staff of NS.*

The foundation for this activity is being developed with the HCB component through the initial skills mapping of available resources and personnel and the development of the HR database.

- *To provide technical information on health related matters to NS and CD on request.*

This is an ongoing activity.

Objective 22: A system for health data collection, analysis and dissemination for National Societies and country delegations.

Activities & Achievements

- *Maintain a library on health information for utilization by National Societies and country delegations.*
An updated database covering available resources is in place. The database was also shared with the South Asia regional health programme.

- *Update and analyse health trends in the region jointly with national societies by organizing a regional workshop in collaboration with relevant health organisations in the first quarter of 2002.*

The second regional health trends workshop was held in Manila with 25 participants from 11 national societies. Health trends covering first aid, health in emergencies, water and sanitation, social welfare, HIV/AIDS were considered by NS (report to be produced at a later date).

- *A technical and resource support system for health planning, assessment and evaluation for national societies and country delegations.*

The issue discussed at both the regional health team meeting with delegates and programme officers and with health managers at the regional health trends workshop.

Objective 23: A formal/informal network for health information sharing and exchange for national societies within and outside the Red Cross/Red Crescent network.

Activities & Achievements

- *Contribute to the Regional Health Newsletter.*

A contribution was made to the sixth regional health newsletter.

- *Develop an appropriate medium for health information exchange and dialogue on specific health issues, in consultation with country delegations and National Societies.*

A system for information sharing was discussed during the health trends workshop. Each NS suggested a method. Feedback from the NS to the RFU is expected in the coming weeks.

Objective 24: Improve the capacity of the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement in the region to provide adequate technical, resources and support to NSs health programmes.

Activities & Achievements

- *Organize and conduct Regional Health Team meetings (3-4 times) to establish working relationship, communication and information sharing.*

A regional health team meeting was held in February 2002. Discussions took place on how the regional 'health team' should function.

- *Develop clear and concise approaches in communication and understanding for technical "sign-off" on Emergency Appeals, Annual Appeals and other relevant processes requiring the same.*

This is an ongoing issue; the approaches and possible systems were discussed during the regional team meeting.

Psychological Support (PSP)

Objective 25: Developing skills of key NS PSP officers to provide psychological support programmes of adequate quality.

Activities & Achievements

- *To conduct an initial survey to identify the needs of National Societies for building technical skills.*

The programme coordinator developed a draft questionnaire to map the results of the psychological support programme. The regional disaster management unit will help follow up on this.

- *To conduct a skills building session attached to the regional strategic planning workshop.*

The workshop has been postponed. Meanwhile, a draft concept paper of the meeting has been developed and circulated for comments. In addition, the participation of the New South Wales University is under discussion.

Objective 26: A formal/informal regional information-sharing network on PSP amongst NSs.

Activities & Achievements

- *In cooperation with Regional Programme on Health Information Surveillance, to gather data on needs of PSP on a systematic basis (disasters, large population movements, health trends) and if necessary, "alert" National Societies.*

A session on psychological support was conducted for NS health managers at the health trends workshop. In addition, as part the review process of the Federation's draft manual on psychological support, the Red Cross societies of Vietnam, Korea, Singapore and the Philippines are reviewing the draft.

- *To publish, in collaboration with HCB programme, a section on PSP in RHN.*

The programme contributed articles for a new section in RHN focused on PSP.

Objective 27: A technical and resource support system for the Federation RD/CD in order to effectively deliver consultancy/facilitation service to National Societies on PSP.

Activities & Achievements

- *To organize a regional workshop to identify the main strategies of regional PSP with the involvement of National Societies.*

The workshop has been postponed.

- *Facilitate the attendance of Federation regional health technical team members to relevant training courses and regional meetings on PSP to improve knowledge and technical skills on PSP.*

This is ongoing.

Organisational Development:

The following significant activities took place during the reporting period:

- second OD Core Group meeting;
- support to Cruz Vermelha Timor Lorosae (CVTL);
- partnership meeting; and,
- departure of regional OD delegate and arrival of successor.

The OD core group meeting provided a forum which is a platform to build a group of Red Cross/Red Crescent practitioners with a variety of specialised areas (e.g., resource development, youth/volunteering, Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS), statutes, gender); participants will eventually include NSs, ICRC and the Federation. The meeting provided an opportunity to share ideas/experience and to identify OD skills and talent in the region (inside and outside the movement). Future meetings will also aim to develop working methods, in for example, CAS negotiation & implementation, NS self-assessment and the updating of statutes.

In order to promote integration across the programmes, the OD unit provided support to the communications department in finalising the Communications Strategy for the region. The OD unit participated in a week long communications workshop and conducted sessions to review the regional communications strategy.

During the first quarter it was agreed that the OD unit will provide assistance and support to the “Counterparts in Relief and Development” workshop to be held in June. As a means of capacity building and long-term institutional development of National Societies, this workshop aims to furnish participants with a range of tools and ideas which will enable them to build counterpart relationship more effectively and efficiently and to exchange knowledge and skills. This workshop will look equally at the needs of the delegate, local Federation staff and the NS staff.

The regional partnership meeting took place during this period. The NSs in the region have identified OD as a priority (see resolution in “Regional Cooperation” section below).

Despite the support shown by NSs for OD in the region at the Partnership Meeting, funding for regional programmes continues to be a serious concern. As a result most of the activities planned for the second quarter will have to be postponed for the third and fourth quarter.

Objective 1: National Societies in the region demonstrate significant improvements in their basic foundation.

Activities & Achievements

- *OD Brochure*

On the basis of feedback that suggested that many people do not understand the meaning of organisational development (OD), it has been decided to produce an OD brochure. This brochure is targeted at NS, donors, ICRC, and any stakeholders wanting to increase understanding of OD.

- *Indicators for OD work*

During the OD core group meeting, group work was conducted to develop impact indicators corresponding to the three main areas of the well functioning National Society model: foundation (governance), capacity (leadership) and performance (activities). It was agreed that these indicators should be adopted and used in the sub-region, and that they will be reviewed in a future OD core group meeting for relevance and appropriateness.

- *Regional OD Course*

The Secretariat led “Organisational Development Training Course” (normally an annual global course) was organised in South-East Asia in May 2002. The course, was attended by NS and Federation staff. Discussions are already underway to consider running a similar course on a regular basis in the region.

Constraints

During this period, the OD delegate ended her mission and there was a one month gap before the arrival of the new OD delegate (who comes from the Asia region).

Objective 2: National Societies with significantly enhanced leadership and management skills.

Activities & Achievements

- *East Timor Red Cross (CVTL)*

Support was provided to develop the HR/administrative systems of CVTL. In addition to looking at basic systems, a short presentation on human resources and the importance of human resources development was made to the Preparatory Committee. The session was conducted in the Indonesian language enabling full participation. Additionally, the roles and responsibility of the secretary general was discussed as not all members of the Preparatory Committee had understood the functions of a secretary general. Other steps taken can be found in more detail in the East Timor Programme Update.

- *Indonesia*

Discussions are underway between PMI and the OD delegate in Indonesia to work on a national human resources strategy for the National Society. The NS is ready to embark on an exercise to produce a national HR strategy. The Swedish Red Cross is expected to provide technical inputs for this activity which is scheduled for the third quarter of 2002.

- *Resource development/fundraising*

A tailored South-East Asia fact file on income generation/fundraising (based on inputs to be provided by OD practitioners) will soon be developed. This information is to consist of NS activities in IG (successes and failures), potential resource persons or experts in this area in the countries participants work (skills mapping), and potential donors who might sponsor or fund OD/RD initiatives by NS.

Constraints

The major constraint has been the change over of staff within the OD Unit.

Objective 3: National Societies with strengthened programme management capabilities.

Activities & Achievements

- *Regional delegate recruitment and training programme*

Over the reporting period, the Hong Kong Red Cross Society deployed its first staff on loan to work for the Disaster Management Unit in Bangkok. The first ever delegate from the Macao Red Cross Society was posted as a reporting delegate in South Asia.

Three candidates from South-East and East Asia attended the BTC in Japan and all three were recommended for positions with the Federation. In addition, the Australian Red Cross offered two seats for potential delegates from the region.

There is a growing interest of the NSs in South-East Asia to conduct their own in-country BTC. The Singapore Red Cross Society will hold its first BTC in July 2002. The regional OD unit together with BTC coordinator in Geneva will provide support in the following areas:

- selection of participants;
- provision of required training and pre-reading material;
- technical support on course content and other pre course preparations; and,
- provision of a resource person to represent the Federation on the Course.

Constraints

Whilst the programme has no constraints, the continuing challenge is to actually place the successful BTC participants on Federation missions. Funding continues to remain a problem for candidates from less developed NSs. Whilst many NSs (Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong) have expressed an interest to run their own BTCs, the number of actual mission opportunities remains few.

Regional Cooperation

Whilst good progress has been made in this quarter, especially around developing partnerships and maintaining minimum standards in planning and reporting, the regional cooperation programme (managed largely through

the regional Relationship Management Unit renamed from the regional Funding and Planning Unit) is constrained by a lack of funds. Given this critical funding situation (where a deficit of up to CHF 120,000 may be reached by July 2002), plans to scale down the Unit to a single regional planning & reporting delegate and to hand over the functions related to maintaining external relationships to staff in Bangkok, heads of country delegations and the Asia & Pacific department, are being implemented.

Objective 1: Regional National Societies working effectively together, with common goals and complementary approaches to meeting humanitarian needs within the framework of Strategy 2010 and the Hanoi Declaration.

Activities & Achievements

The beginning of 2002 has seen good progress in achieving this objective. In line with the planned activities and respective indicators, the partnership meeting held during March in Jakarta has been a catalyst to establishing further inter-regional cooperation, in providing an open forum to discuss the role of the Secretariat and enhancing relations between all the components of the Movement.

Regional cooperation has developed further, where for example, the Singapore Red Cross has expressed an interest in taking a lead in developing a consortium type support package to East Timor (CVTL) and further steps, somewhat complimenting the regional DM programme, have been made in establishing further partnerships with Malaysian Red Crescent.

The partnership meeting, which was preceded by a meeting of the regional Secretary Generals, also provided an opportunity to discuss the somewhat radical resolution made by the Secretary Generals concerning future partnerships. The resolution is as follows:

The Secretaries General of South-East Asia:

1. Reaffirm their commitment to implementing humanitarian programmes within the framework of the Seven Fundamental Principles and the Strategy 2010 of the Federation. These programmes will be described within the Societies' National Plans and Strategies.
2. Commit to only accept financial, in kind and technical support from external donors that supports programmes and work driven by the seven Fundamental Principles and within the Society's national plans or strategies. Where donors offer support to work outside of these plans and strategies, the National Society will encourage the redirecting of such support and may decline to accept support that is not in-line with its National Plan and Strategy.
3. Encourage all external donors to only offer financial, in kind and technical support to work and programmes within the National Plans and Strategies, and not for projects and programmes that fall outside of the National Societies' objectives and priorities as designed and described in the National Plans and Strategies.
4. Encourage all external donors providing financial support to National Society projects to allocate a percentage of their funding specifically towards organizational development of the National Society so that it can further reduce vulnerability and suffering amongst the most vulnerable.

The partnership meeting also provided a useful forum for the national societies (NS) to consider their expectations of the Secretariat in the region. This was not only discussed by all components of the Movement but the Federation Secretary General was able to provide direct comments and feedback (see meeting report which is available on request from Bangkok delegation).

Objective 2: Federation offices and key regional national societies have well developed, or enhanced, funding strategies/relationships with Red Cross and other partners.

Activities & Achievements

The partnership meeting provided the regional NS with not only an opportunity to consider partnerships between themselves but it was also a chance to engage with senior staff of the Federation, ICRC and

representatives of up to 12 partner NS from outside of the region. Whilst this has resulted in the strengthening of some partnerships and the start of others, in order for the Federation delegations to attract more resources, basic funding plans have been developed. These plans, which are available from the heads of delegation and from the Bangkok office, have been provided to most NS ensuring greater transparent and accountability.

The production of the 'Partnership Update', a tool to share information on partnerships within and beyond the region, has continued. Additionally a publication that provides a summary of each Federation annual appeal has been produced and shared with key stakeholders (available on request from Bangkok).

Although a regional website has been established for the partnership meeting, it is not clear how many partners are using this service. Meanwhile work to create a library of information cataloging donors strategies, donor proposal formats and funding opportunities, has not progressed. This is largely due to the funding constraints.

Objective 3: The Federation offices are producing regular plans and reports in accordance with minimum standards.

Activities & Achievements

The quality of reports produced by the Federation delegations within the region continues to improve and to potentially exceed minimum standards (based on feedback from the Relationship Management Division in Geneva). However, timeliness continue to be a challenge with only 75% of the annual reports submitted on schedule and 20% of the first quarter Programme Updates completed within the agreed time frame. Enhanced guidelines have been produced and a global tracking system (for pledge based reporting) is currently under development by staff in Geneva.

Whilst two Federation staff from the region have attended the Geneva based Project Planning Process (PPP) training workshop, plans to roll out the training to delegations have been delayed. Given clarification on a number of factors, such as the alignment of this initiative with other complimentary processes, as well as adequate resources, PPP will be rolled out to all delegations later in 2002.

Steps to better harmonise the respective planning processes of the Federation and ICRC are expected to continue as delegations at country level engage with ICRC on the 2003 planning process.

Objective 4: The regional funding and planning unit has been instrumental in establishing global best practice in planning and reporting (under Action Research).

Activities & Achievements

Whilst the concept of Action Research ended in late 2001 and the 'lessons learnt' used as the groundwork for the Serving Leader concept (and PC change strategy) into 2002, work towards enhancing planning and reporting globally has continued. The Bangkok unit has been able to contribute to current thinking around decentralisation of the functions, around minimum standards and towards developing the most appropriate Appeal format in the context of 'Serving Leader.' Concept papers have been shared with Geneva, Budapest and Harare.

Building on the planning and reporting work initiated around the 2001 Mount Mayon volcanic eruption, in 2002, the Philippines Red Cross has continued to provide high quality reports and information bulletins. It is planned that this work is further developed, and used as a reference point within the region, through the regional organisational development programme.

Activities that will contribute to developing NS capacity in the region has continued to be a priority for the Unit and for delegations. Whilst it is expected that the regional leadership around this will be taken up by the regional OD programme, plans are underway to provide PPP training to most NS during 2002. Moreover, delegations, such as Indonesia, East Timor, Vietnam and Cambodia have planned and budgeted to carry out capacity building in these areas during 2002; the Vietnam delegation has been able to utilize the regional reporting officer (outposted to Hanoi) in their development work with VNRC.

Constraints

The regional cooperation programme (managed largely through the regional Relationship Management Unit) is constrained by a lack of funds.

Coordination and Management:

The part of 2002 has seen the implementation of the Federation's new Performance Development Review (PDR) system in the delegation and region. This extremely comprehensive programme requires intensive training and work on the part of all staff and has occupied a significant part of the management time of the Head of Regional Delegation.

Managing, motivating and coaching the regional team - heads of technical units and heads of delegation - has now become our normal modus operandi.

Financial management of all delegations and programmes has significantly improved with a real commitment to controlling deficits.

Significant advances have been made in the delegation's daily cooperation with ICRC putting the intent expressed in 2001 into practice.

Objective 1: Strategically managed and coordinated country & regional delegations and other Secretariat activities in the region.

Activities & Achievements

A system of regular reporting and communication has been set up between the regional delegation and the country delegations. Brief weekly email reports are used, backed up by commitment for the Head of Regional Delegation to talk on the phone at least once every week with each Head of Delegation. Experience has shown that email may be fine for conveying information, but not for discussion and problem solving.

In addition, communication between HoDs and the regional technical units has significantly increased with HODs more frequently seeking advice from the units.

The first quarterly 2002 regional management team meeting was held in March during the partnership meeting. The implementation of the Performance Development Review (PDR) system was discussed along with the financial status of each delegation. In programming terms the regional delegation's focus is very much upon making the Co-operation Agreement Strategies work, and on helping NSs find ways of scaling up their work on HIV/AIDS.

The staffing of all delegations and regional units has been reviewed. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff, particularly to seeking competent appointments from within the Asia region.

In the context of the PDR, all heads of delegation have developed personal objectives for 2002, which are in line with the Secretariat's overall priorities. All these sets of objectives emphasise the changing role of the delegations, their increased involvement in facilitating the CAS process, their commitment to supporting the organisational development of the NS and their role in promoting effective working relations between the NS and its PNS partners. Delegations in both Vietnam and Cambodia are now providing central common office space for in-country PNS partners to facilitate their work.

Plans have also been formulated to change the nature of the delegations. In Cambodia, staff numbers are being reduced and remaining delegates are being more integrated into the Cambodian Red Cross administration, office and structure. In Vietnam, a similar process is underway. In Lao and East Timor, both small, essentially OD and CAS dominated delegations, no change is foreseen over the next year. In Indonesia and Myanmar, opportunities to scale up assistance to the NSs of these countries are being looked at in the light of the changing political and vulnerability situation in those two countries.

Constraints

Managing the change in approach and systems from the old way of working to the new has posed a large challenge to the delegation. In the past, delegation objectives were driven exclusively by the content of the appeal. Now the delegation is seeking to reflect Secretariat and Federation global priorities. At times this has led to problems as the delegation must reconcile the bottom up, specific objectives as expressed in the appeals with the globally agreed general objectives as expressed in the Secretariat priorities.

These is also a personnel challenge as delegate staff move into a more facilitating and empowering role, less of an implementing one. For many staff this has been a welcome change, but for some it has proved difficult.

Objective 2: The development and management by June 2002 of a Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) for South-East Asia.

Activities & Achievements

In mid March the Secretaries General of South-East Asia met for a one day meeting, prior to the partnership meeting, to discuss regional issues, priorities and challenges. The validity of developing a regional strategy was discussed. They concluded that in South-East Asia there are a number of challenges in doing this, principally because of the diversity of the region. Outside of the ASEAN economic structure, South-East Asia has no real regional identity. The problems facing the NS in the region are diverse and their capacity to address the problems vary considerable. There are common issues of course. All are concerned with the HIV/AIDS epidemic and with disaster response. All are concerned with the need to improve their volunteer management and national income generation.

However, at present the membership in the region is not convinced of the need to rapidly develop a formal regional strategy. Secretaries General are more concerned to take the time to develop between themselves a sense of common issues before translating this into a regional strategy. The regional delegation is supportive of this approach, believing the all co-operative agreement strategies (CAS) much be derived bottom up, from the aspirations and plans of the membership.

Constraints

The objective of developing a RAS by June 2002 will have to be revised in the light of the clear message from the Secretaries General to slow down and be more guided by their wishes and concerns.

Objective 3: Co-ordinated work from the regional technical units and their country technical delegates.

Activities & Achievements

Regular coordination and meeting between members of the regional technical units and their peers in the delegations and national societies have now become a normal feature of the work of the delegation.

The Regional Health Team (Bangkok unit plus country health delegates) had a two day retreat in February in Thailand. The Asia communications working group met in Macao in March. The regional OD working group met in February in Lao, involving regional and country delegation staff and National Society staff from the region. The Regional Disaster Management team likewise met together in February.

In these early days of establishing regional cooperation there is inevitably a lot of personal meetings, which can be time consuming and expensive, but necessary. As the teams evolve, more use will be made of more informal ways of getting peer support and developing quality assurance.

Constraints

Allowing country delegates to participate in regional activities is a new concept. For heads of delegation this has meant negotiating with the regional team on time out of country and time working on regional issues for their country staff. For those delegations which are short staffed this has been something of an issue, but one which is being dealt with

Objective 4: A financially well managed regional delegation which does not go into unacceptable financial deficit.

Activities & Achievements

The regional delegation started the year with an agreed budget and a clear picture of its financial position for each programme area. Across the board funding support for 2002 implementation is lower than in 2001. This time last year the delegation had 15% of its funding needs covered. This year the figure is 7%. All programmes are reviewing their expenditures and cutting back or delaying movable expenses, like workshops, until the second quarter when traditionally many of our soft pledges are firmed up. If, at the end of quarter two the delegation finds itself significantly under funded then the appeal will be revised and budgets cut back to match actual funding levels.

Delegation budgets, expenditure and funding is reviewed on a monthly basis as part of the mechanism for requesting a cash transfer from Geneva. All programmes that risk going into deficit in the first half of 2002 have been subject to the Federation's new deficit management control systems which requires programme managers to keep spending to within pre-agreed limits.

All staff in the delegation (delegates, regional staff and national staff) have been trained in the Federation's new Performance Development Review system. In addition all staff at the head of unit and officer level have completed the full review process. As part of this, all staff have now set personal work objectives for 2002. This has been agreed upon and signed off on by their line managers. Staff will be held accountable for meeting these objectives.

Constraints

The single biggest constraint faced in running financially sound programmes is the apparent slowing down in the process of converting soft pledges to hard pledges. This means that most programmes spend the first half of the year operating in deficit. Secondly, for a regional delegation, where its services are provided through staff time, not the delivery of goods, our deficits are created through our legal responsibility to carry on paying salaries of staff. Significant cuts in expenditure mean laying staff off, a decision which is difficult to reverse should funds become available later in the year.

Objective 5: An efficient information technology system which allows for effective communication and data flow across the regional team and with the Secretariat in Geneva.

Activities & Achievements

A full review of the IT equipment, needs and service possibilities in each country delegation has now been carried out. In Bangkok the delegation is now connected to the Internet via a permanent lease-line giving wide-band access 24 hours a day. A regional management web site has now been established. A service arrangement has been made with a local company to regularly maintain, service and update the delegations IT equipment.

Constraints

In some countries of the region, principally Myanmar, there are still major IT obstacles. Whilst an E-mail service is available in Myanmar, Internet access is still not possible.

Objective 6: Major improvements in Financial Awareness, Responsibility, Control and Reporting throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

Activities & Achievements

The key achievements are as follows:

- the monthly deadlines for the finance processing cycle were achieved (each month of the Quarter);
- the deficit programmes are adhering to Federation deficit management procedures; 90% of existing deficits authorised (Feb. 01);
- the development of finance training courses for programme managers is being developed and will be ready for implementation in July 2002. Equally the financial analysis packs for country finance management are also under development;
- USAID Audit performed successfully in KL on Mongolia Snowfall Appeal;
- 12 assistance and advice missions to country operations in first quarter;
- 21 operations covered are now covered by the RFU; there has been a reduction in the number of finance delegate posts from seven to six;
- 6 finance staff from the Asia & Pacific region were trained in KL; and,

- management review of the regional finance unit (RFU-KL) was published by the internal audit Department at the Secretariat.

Objective 7: Effective representation and advocacy of the Federation and Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement in SE Asia and specifically with regional bodies represented in the region.

Activities & Achievements

In February the Head of Regional Delegation was invited to be a facilitator at a major conference on disaster preparedness in Asia, hosted by the UN-OCHA and the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre in Kobe Japan. The conference brought together government, Red Cross and local disaster response agencies from across the region.

Contacts with WHO and UNAIDS in Bangkok have been increased, resulting in an invitation from UNAIDS for all the societies of SE Asia to join the national UN-HIV/AIDS Theme Groups.

Contact is regularly made with the key aid mission and with the regional ECHO office in Bangkok.

Constraints

The Federation's ability to advocate more effectively on HIV/AIDS in the region illustrates a key point. Advocacy without substance is near impossible. Thus, although the Federation is a major player in disaster response, advocacy on this theme is only possible when there is a major disaster response operation going on in the region.

Objective 8: Harmonious and close working relations with ICRC across the region.

Activities & Achievements

The heads of regional delegation for the ICRC and the Federation now meet regularly in Bangkok. The new Strategy for the Movement has been systematically reviewed to identify ways in which the two delegations can put it into practice. A joint presentation on this theme was made to the recent partnership meeting in Jakarta. This partnership meeting was in turn jointly funded by the Federation and ICRC and ICRC was a full participating member.

It has been agreed to merge the regional information officer internship programmes and to regularly participate in respective training activities. At the country level there is very much a sense of joint planning and implementation on National Society capacity building activities. This is particularly evident in Myanmar and Indonesia.

Constraints

The funding situation remains a major constraint.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Coordination and management is monitored through weekly reports to and from the HoRD to the Federation's heads of unit and heads of country delegation. No formal programme evaluation has been carried out, but many of the key objectives in the programme and the skills necessary to make it happen are evaluated under the Federation's Performance Development Review programme. All senior staff in the region have been through this process.

Lessons Learned

The key lesson learned, mostly coming out of a review of 2001's work and feedback from the NS during the partnership meeting, is that, the delegation should move into a more facilitatory and empowering role and make more use of NS driving the networks.

Financial Update (see attached annex):

See annex attached.

Wider Context

Across the Movement in South-East Asia in 2002 the key theme has been partnership. The ongoing development of the CAS in Lao, Cambodia and Vietnam, the commitment to more joint action between the Federation and the ICRC, the building of the regional technical networks and the strengthening and deepening of the relationships between the regions Secretaries General all point in this direction. This approach will continue to be promoted throughout the year.

Outstanding needs

Funding for the regional delegation remains critical. The 'coordination and management' budget as well as the 'regional cooperation' budget will go into deficit in the second quarter. Meanwhile support is urgently needed for the regional OD programme. The health and DM budgets are currently less than 50% funded; budget revisions are expected.

Conclusion

The first part of 2002 has seen a systematic application of the commitment to work in a more facilitatory and empowering way, to build on regional networks and strengths rather than on direct assistance. The approach is appreciated by the societies of the region. There have been successes, particularly in the regional health programmes work to support HIV/AIDS initiatives and first aid and in the work of the Disaster Management Unit to help build up a region wide grouping of NS disaster managers who between them are setting the agenda for the Federation's disaster management support in the region. However, the funding situation remains critical and it is expected that some activities will be canceled and budgets will be revised unless further support is forthcoming.

For further details please contact: Charles Eldred Evans, Phone : 41 22 730 4320; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; e-mail: evans@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

John Horekins
Head
Relationship Management Department

Simon Missiri
Head a.i.
Asia and Pacific Department

South East Asia regional						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.30/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			25.06.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4'909'189		TOTAL COVERAGE 33.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				431'632		
Programme support				343'080		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				175'000	19.02.2002	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH
BRITISH - RC		25'000	GBP	60'750	22.02.2002	NS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
KOREA REPUBLIC - RC				5'000	16.01.2002	SEA PNS MEETING
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		545'267	NOK	103'873	08.04.2002	HIV/AIDS NETWORK
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'606	08.02.2002	REGIONAL COOPERATION
SWEDISH - RC		325'000	SEK	52'390	22.04.2002	ORGANISATION DEV. & REGIONAL CO- OPERATION
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	31'620	30.05.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'450'000	SEK	229'245	30.05.2002	HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEV., INFORMATION, REG. COOPERATION, DMIS, COORDINATION & MGT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'451'196	CHF	29.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRIA	DELEGATE(S)			39'261		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			34'990		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			53'059		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			69'650		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				196'960	CHF	4.0%